Issuance of electronic cards to beneficiaries of NREG Scheme

*152. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is thinking of introducing smart or electronic cards and electronic transfer of money to beneficiaries to make the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) Scheme effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry is also proposing a tie-up between banks and post offices to pay wages to the beneficiaries; and

(d) if so, to what extent the proposal at (c) above would help in effective implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Ministry of Rural Development has prepared Operational Guidelines, 2006 for effective implementation of NREG Act by the State Government. These guidelines provides for Information Technology application in the implementation of the Act. Use of smart or electronic cards and electronic transfer of money to the beneficiaries is to be decided by the State Government.

(c) and (d) Payment of wages to the beneficiaries is to be made by the States. Some States are considering tie-up with the banks and post offices for payment of wages to the beneficiaries through the bank/post office accounts.

Food grain export

*153. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise quantum of foodgrains exported during 2002-05; and

(b) the percentage of foodgrains exported out of total exports during above period year-wise?